IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

sending, via a public network, a first set of information identifying a plurality of business entities to an information distribution service, wherein said first set of information is ~~sent by~~ received via ~~a first user accessing said information distribution service using~~ a first account of the information distribution service that is associated with a first user, and wherein said first set of information is usable by the information distribution service to associate said plurality of business entities with said first account ~~user~~, wherein said associating permits the plurality of business entities to provide content that is accessible ~~to the first user~~ via the first account of the information distribution service;

~~said first user~~ providing sharing control information to said information distribution service via said public network, wherein said sharing control information is received via said first account and specifies other user~~[[s]]~~ accounts of said information distribution service that are permitted to access specified personal information associated with said first account ~~of said first user~~;

subsequent to said sending, ~~said first user~~ conveying a request for access to said first account of said information distribution service via said public network;

in response to said request being validated by the information distribution service:

automatically receiving a second set of information from said information distribution service via said public network, wherein the ~~received~~ second set of information includes content from each of at least two of the plurality of business entities, wherein the received content from each of the at least two business entities includes personal, non-public content that relates to the first user and is not provided by the business entity ~~entities~~ to other user~~[[s]]~~ accounts of the information distribution service, wherein the received content from each of the at least two business entities includes an associated time value, and wherein the received content from each of the at least two business entities was selected by the information distribution service to be

made accessible ~~via the first account~~ to the first user upon the request being validated[[,]] ~~the selection~~ and based on the associated time value satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service;

automatically displaying a graphical interface, wherein said graphical interface includes a view that includes, for each of the at least two business entities, at least an indication of the content ~~received~~ from that business entity.

55.   (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

one or more servers configured to:

associate a plurality of business entities with a first account ~~a first user~~ of an information distribution service, permitting the plurality of businesses to push content to the first ~~user~~ account via the information distribution service, wherein the first account is associated with the first user of the information distribution service;

receive, via said information distribution service, content from at least two of said plurality of business entities, wherein said received content from each of the at least two business entities includes personal, non-public information relating to the first user and has an associated value indicative of a time-based priority of that content;

store said received content in a database accessible to said one or more servers;

select content from the stored content having an associated value satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service, wherein said selected content includes first and second pieces of content;

receive a request from a client computer ~~said first user~~ to log on to said first account ~~service~~;

in response to said client computer ~~first user~~ logging on to said information distribution service, automatically provide information ~~a graphical user interface~~ to said client computer ~~first user~~, wherein said information is usable to ~~graphical user interface~~ concurrently display[[s]] at least an indication of said first and second pieces of content;

wherein said first and second pieces of content are not provided to other accounts ~~users~~ of the information distribution service by the first and second business entities, respectively.

56.   (Currently Amended) A system configured to provide an information distribution service, said system comprising:

a memory subsystem;

one or more application servers configured to receive, via secure links to said ~~information distribution~~ service, messages including personal information relating to users of said ~~information distribution~~ service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities;

wherein the received messages include first and second messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and each include an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity;

wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of ~~said first user via~~ said ~~information distribution~~ service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said ~~information distribution~~ service, messages to said first ~~account~~ ~~user~~ that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein said one or more application servers are configured to store the received messages in said memory subsystem, including the first and second messages;

wherein the one or more application servers are configured to generate a report for the first ~~account~~ ~~user~~ by selecting the stored messages that are directed to the first ~~account~~ ~~user~~ and whose time-based priorities ~~that~~ satisfy one or more time-based criteria, wherein the report for the first ~~account~~ ~~user~~ includes at least an indication of the first and second messages;

wherein the one or more application servers are configured to store the report for the first ~~account~~ ~~user~~.

57.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein the one or more application servers are configured to make the stored report available to a client computer ~~the first user~~ by conveying the stored report to the client computer for display ~~to the first user~~ in response to the client computer logging on to the first account.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey said report to a client computer in response to said client computer ~~first user~~ logging on to said first account ~~service~~.

59. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey the report ~~to the first user~~ over a wireless network to a client computer that has accessed the first account.

60. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey the report ~~to the first user~~ over a television network to a client computer that has accessed the first account.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is configured to convey the report ~~to the first user~~ over a secure link to a client computer that has accessed the first account.

62. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is web-based, wherein said system further comprises a web server coupled to at least one of said one or more application servers, wherein the web server is configured to convey said report to a client computer ~~said first use~~r via one or more web pages.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, wherein said web server and said at least one application server are configured to generate said one or more web pages using at least said first and second messages.

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is further configured to include additional content as part of said report for the first account ~~user~~, wherein said additional content includes public information generated by said one or more application servers based upon user profile information specified by ~~received from~~ said first user.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 64, wherein said additional content included in the report for the first account ~~user~~ includes weather information based on location information specified by said first user to the information distribution service.

66.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said one or more application servers are further configured to permit sharing of personal information of said first user with one or more designated accounts ~~users~~ of said information distribution service, wherein said system is configured to permit said sharing based at least in part upon sharing control information ~~provided to said service~~ specified by said first user.

67.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 66, wherein said sharing control information includes information identifying said one or more designated accounts ~~users~~ and information identifying personal information of said first user to be shared.

68.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein said system is further configured to receive information from a client computer that has accessed the first account, wherein the received information indicates ~~said first user indicating~~ that the first and second business entities are to be associated with the first account ~~user~~ via the information distribution service.

69.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said plurality of business entities include one or more types of entities from the following types: manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, nonprofit entities, sports franchises.

70.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein said first message includes one of the following types of content: information relating to a prescription of said first user, service information for an automobile of said first user, information relating to a particular product purchased by said first user, information for a travel reservation of said first user, voicemail messages for said first user.

71.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein at least one of said one or more application servers is further configured to receive voting information specified by ~~from~~ said first user.

72.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 71, wherein at least one of said one or more application servers is further configured to receive a question[[s]] from a client computer that has accessed the first account ~~said first user~~ and to send said received question[[s]] to other accounts ~~users~~ of said information distribution service.

73.   (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for providing an information distribution service, said method comprising:

receiving, via secure links to said <u>information distribution</u> service, messages including personal information relating to users of said <u>information distribution</u> service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first and second messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with <u>a first account of the information distribution service</u> ~~said first user~~ via said <u>information distribution</u> service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said <u>information distribution</u> service, messages to said first <u>account</u> ~~user~~ that include personal information relating to said first user<u>, wherein the first account is associated with the first user</u>;

storing said received messages;

generating a report for the first <u>account</u> ~~user~~, wherein said generating includes selecting at least the first and second messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based priority of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the <u>information distribution</u> service[[,]];

storing the report for the first <u>account</u> ~~user~~;

making the report available to <u>a client computer system that has accessed the first account</u> ~~the first user~~ via said <u>information distribution</u> service<u>, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system</u> using a first interface.

74.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 73, wherein said making the stored report available to the <u>client computer system</u> ~~first user~~ includes conveying the stored report for display to the first user.

75.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 74, wherein said conveying is performed in response to said <u>client computer system</u> ~~first user~~ logging in to said <u>first account of the information distribution</u> service.

76.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73, further comprising including additional content as part of said report, wherein said additional content is generated based at least in part upon user profile information <u>specified</u> ~~provided~~ by said first user ~~to said service~~, wherein said additional content is not private content relative to the first user.

77.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said additional content includes weather information based on location information specified by said first user.

78.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73, further comprising:

receiving sharing control information from said <u>client computer system</u> ~~first user~~, wherein said sharing control information identifies one or more other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ of said <u>information distribution</u> service; and

permitting said other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ to access personal information of said first user in response to said receiving said sharing control information.

79.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein said sharing control information further identifies personal information of said first user to be shared with said other users.

80.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said first plurality of business entities includes one or more types of the following types of entities: manufacturers, retailers, government agencies, nonprofit entities, sports franchises.

81.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said first message includes one of the following types of content: information relating to a prescription of said first user, service information for an automobile of said first user, information relating to a particular product purchased by said first user, information for a travel reservation of said first user, voicemail messages for said first user.

82.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73, further comprising receiving voting information from said <u>client computer system</u> ~~first user~~.

83.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 82, further comprising receiving questions from said <u>client computer system</u> ~~first user~~ and sending said received questions to other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ of said <u>information distribution</u> service.

84.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions executable by a computer to:

receive, via secure links to an information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said <u>information distribution</u> service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first and second messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, private information relating to said first user and each include an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with <u>a first account of said information distribution service</u> ~~said first user~~ via said <u>information distribution</u> service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said <u>information distribution</u> service, messages to said first <u>account</u> ~~user~~ that include[[s]] personal information relating to said first user<u>, wherein the first account is associated with the first user</u>;

store said received messages;

generate a report for the first <u>account</u> ~~user~~, wherein generating the report includes selecting at least the first and second messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based priorities of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the <u>information distribution</u> service; and

make the report available to ~~the first user~~ <u>a client computer system that has accessed the first account</u> via said <u>information distribution</u> service<u>, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system</u> using a first interface.

85.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

~~a first user of an information distribution service~~ <u>a first computer system</u> receiving, from ~~the~~ <u>an</u> information distribution service over a data channel that includes the Internet, a first plurality of messages;

responsive to said receiving, <u>said first computer system</u> providing at least an indication of each of the <u>first</u> plurality of messages <u>for display</u> to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> first user <u>using</u> ~~via~~ a first interface;

wherein each of the first plurality of messages was sent to the <u>information distribution</u> service over a respective data channel that includes the Internet by one of a plurality of business entities;

wherein each of the plurality of business entities is associated with <u>a first account of the</u> <u>information distribution service</u> ~~the first user~~ and is permitted by the <u>information distribution</u> service to provide messages to the first <u>account</u> ~~user~~, <u>wherein the first account is associated with</u> <u>the first user</u>;

wherein each of the first plurality of messages includes personal, non-public content that is related to the first user and that is not provided by the originating business entity to other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ of the <u>information distribution</u> service;

wherein each of the first plurality of messages has an associated time value indicative of a time-based priority of the message, and wherein each of the first plurality of messages was selected for delivery to the first <u>computer system</u> ~~user~~ based on its associated time value satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service.

86.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, further comprising ~~specifying~~ <u>said first</u> <u>computer system conveying</u> sharing control information to the <u>information distribution</u> service<u>,</u> <u>wherein the sharing control information</u> ~~that~~ indicates 1) one or more other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ of the <u>information distribution</u> service and 2) one or more types of information relating to the first user that is stored by the <u>information distribution</u> service;

wherein the ~~specified~~ <u>conveyed</u> sharing control information permits the one or more types of information relating to the first user to be shared with the one or more other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

87.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 86, further comprising ~~using the~~ <u>said first</u> <u>computer system conveying, via the information distribution</u> service<u>,</u> ~~to make~~ a query to one or more other <u>accounts</u> ~~users~~ of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

88.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 87, further comprising said first computer system conveying information to the information distribution service that is indicative of a request by the first user to join[[ing]] a first group that includes one or more other accounts users of the information distribution service.

89.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 88, further comprising said first computer system sending a message to a second account user of the information distribution service via the information distribution service.

90.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the message is an instant message.

91.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 88, further comprising said first computer system sending a message to all members of the first group via the information distribution service.

92.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 88, further comprising said first computer system conveying voting information to the information distribution system, wherein the voting information is indicative of a vote by the first user within the context of the first group participating in decision making of the first group by voting via the service.

93.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first interface is a web interface or an interactive voice response system.

94.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein said receiving is performed wirelessly.

95.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message that is a text-based message.

96.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message that includes audio and video.

97.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message that includes prescription information for the first user.

98.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the first computer system ~~user~~ also receiving, from the information distribution service, a second plurality of messages having content personalized to the first user based on a user profile submitted to the information distribution service by the first computer system ~~first user~~, wherein the second plurality of messages do not include private information of the first user.

99.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the second plurality of messages includes a second message having weather information corresponding to a location designated by the first user.

100.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, wherein the first interface is a graphical interface, ~~plurality of messages is provided to the first user via a graphical interface,~~ wherein the graphical interface, at a first point in time, includes at least an indication of each of the first plurality of messages.

101.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 100, wherein the first computer system is configured to ~~graphical interface~~ display[[s]] more content relating to a first of the first plurality of messages in response to receiving input from the first user indicating a selection ~~selecting an indication~~ of that message.

102.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, wherein the first plurality of messages includes a first message whose associated time value indicates the ~~current~~ day on which the first message is received by the information distribution service, and wherein the one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service [[is]] includes whether a given message has an associated time value that corresponds to the current day.

103.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, wherein said first plurality of messages are received while the first computer system ~~user~~ is logged on to the information distribution service, and are provided to the first user substantially upon being received.

104.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing, at a _first_ computer system associated with an information distribution service, information specifying that a plurality of business entities are permitted to push personalized content to a first _account_ ~~user~~ of the _information distribution_ service _associated with a first user_;

receiving, at the _first_ computer system, personalized content from at least two of _the_ plurality of business entities, wherein the received content includes personal, non-public information that relates to the first user and that is unique to the first user relative to other users of the _information distribution_ service, wherein the _received_ content ~~received~~ from each of the at least two business entities has an associated time value indicative of a time-based priority of the content;

the _first_ computer system automatically selecting, from the received content, content whose associated time value satisfies one or more time-based criteria specified by the _information distribution_ service;

substantially upon receiving, automatically pushing the selected content to _a client computer system that has accessed the first account via the information distribution service_ ~~the first user~~, _wherein the selected content is displayable on the client computer system using_ ~~via~~ a first interface.

105.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 104, further comprising receiving user profile information specified by the first user.

106.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 105, further comprising providing cumulative aggregate user profile information _to one or more business entities, wherein the aggregate user profile information_ ~~that~~ is based in part upon the first user's user profile information ~~to one or more business entities~~.

107.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 105, further comprising receiving sharing control information from the _client computer system_ ~~first user~~, wherein the sharing control information specifies information of the first user that is stored by the _information distribution_ service that can be shared, and wherein the sharing control information further specifies one or

more <u>accounts</u> <s>users</s> of the <u>information distribution</u> service with <u>which</u> <s>whom</s> the specified information can be shared.

108.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 107, further comprising facilitating sharing <u>of the specified</u> information of the first user based on the received sharing control information.

109.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising storing information defining groups of users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

110.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 109, further comprising facilitating voting by members of a first group defined via the <u>information distribution</u> service, wherein the first group has at least two users of the <u>information distribution</u> service as members.

111.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108, further comprising providing additional content to the first <u>account</u> <s>user</s> that is personalized to the first user based on user profile information <s>received from</s> <u>specified by</u> the first user, wherein the additional content is not private information of the first user.

112.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service permits providing, to the first <u>account</u> <s>user</s>, information from one or more groups of users defined via the <u>information distribution</u> service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

113.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 112, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service facilitates voting by users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

114.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 113, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

115.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 55, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service permits providing, to the first <u>account</u> <s>user</s>, information from one or more groups of users defined via the <u>information distribution</u> service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

116.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 115, wherein the _information distribution_ service facilitates voting by users of the _information distribution_ service.

117.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 116, wherein the _information distribution_ service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for user~~s~~ of the _information distribution_ service.

118.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 56, wherein the _information distribution_ service permits providing, to the first _account_ ~~user~~, information from one or more groups of users defined via the _information distribution_ service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

119.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 118, wherein the _information distribution_ service facilitates voting by users of the _information distribution_ service.

120.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 119, wherein the _information distribution_ service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for user~~s~~ of the _information distribution_ service.

121.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 73, wherein the _information distribution_ service permits providing, to the first _account_ ~~user~~, information from one or more groups of users defined via the _information distribution_ service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

122.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein the _information distribution_ service facilitates voting by users of the _information distribution_ service.

123.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 122, wherein the _information distribution_ service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the _information distribution_ service.

124.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 84, wherein the _information distribution_ service permits providing, to the first _account_ ~~user~~, information from one or more groups of users defined via the _information distribution_ service, information from

the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

125.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 124, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service facilitates voting by users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

126.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 125, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

127.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 85, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service permits providing, to the first <u>account</u> ~~user~~, information from one or more groups of users defined via the <u>information distribution</u> service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

128.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 127, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service facilitates voting by users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

129.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>128</u> [[129]], wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

130.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 104, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service permits providing, to the first <u>account</u> ~~user~~, information from one or more groups of users defined via the <u>information distribution</u> service, information from the first user's family members and/or friends, and customer service information requested by the first user.

131.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 130, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service facilitates voting by users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.

132.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 131, wherein the <u>information distribution</u> service maintains a calendar, address book, and a to-do list for users of the <u>information distribution</u> service.